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SLIDES: The Multi-Species Conservation Program: What it Means for Water Users and the Environment in the Lower Basin

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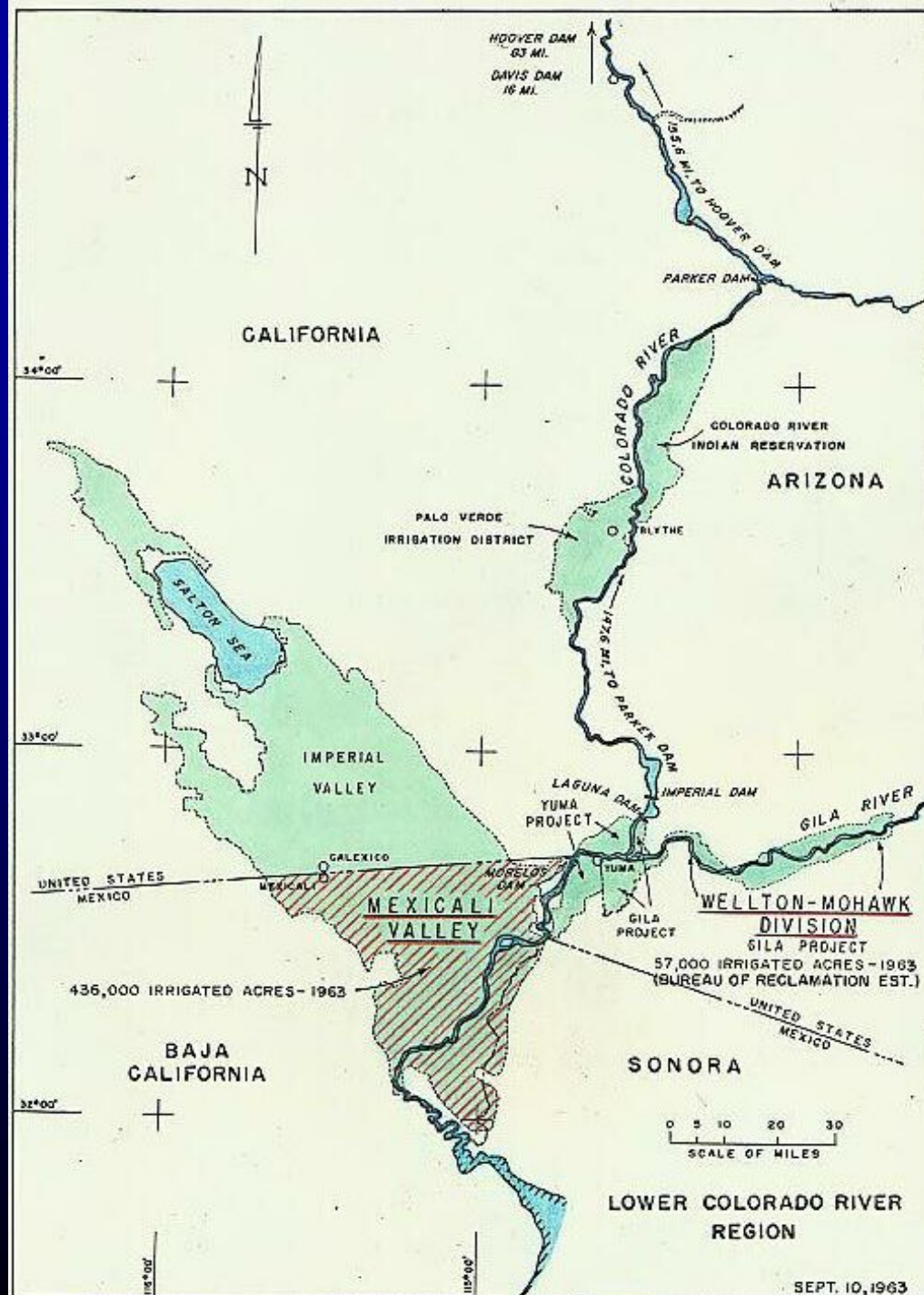
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Joe Vanderhorst, *The Multi-Species Conservation Program: What it Means for Water Users and the Environment in the Lower Basin, in* *HARD TIMES ON THE COLORADO RIVER: DROUGHT, GROWTH AND THE FUTURE OF THE COMPACT* (Natural Res. Law Ctr., Univ. of Colo. Sch. of Law, 2005).

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The Multi-Species Conservation Program: What It Means for Water Users and the Environment in the Lower Basin

**Natural Resources Law Center
University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado
“Hard Times on the Colorado River: Drought, Growth
and the Future of the Compact”
June 9, 2005**



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2005 19, 2005

Planning Area

Historic floodplain from Lake Mead to Mexico



Key Legal Documents

- 1922** Colorado River Compact
- 1928** Boulder Canyon Project Act
- 1929** California Limitation Act
- 1931** Seven Party Agreement
- 1944** U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty
- 1963** *Arizona v. California*
- 1968** Colorado River Basin Project Act







**CALIFORNIA SERVICE AREAS
AND MAJOR FACILITIES OF ENTITIES USING COLORADO RIVER WATER**



LCR MSCP Participants

Broad cross-section of interests representing:

- Department of the Interior (i.e., USBR, USFWS, BLM, NPS, and BIA)
- Department of Energy (i.e., Western Area Power Administration)
- Native American Tribes
- State Agencies in Arizona, California, and Nevada (Water, Power, and Game & Fish)
- Colorado River Water and Power providers in the three states
- Environmental organizations
- County, City, and general public representatives

ESA Incidental Take Authorizations

- The delivery, diversion, and return flow of up to 7.5 MAF/year, plus any such surpluses, or unused apportionment, as the Secretary of the Interior may determine, from existing facilities;
- The future transfer and change in points-of-diversion of up to 1.574 MAF/year;
- Operations and maintenance of existing facilities and associated activities, both flow and non-flow-related, all of which have been identified and approved by the MSCP Steering Committee and analyzed in the Conservation Plan.

Key LCR MSCP Species

Aquatic

Razorback sucker (E/CFP);
Bonytail (E/CE)

Marsh

Yuma clapper rail (E/CFP);
Black rail (CFP)

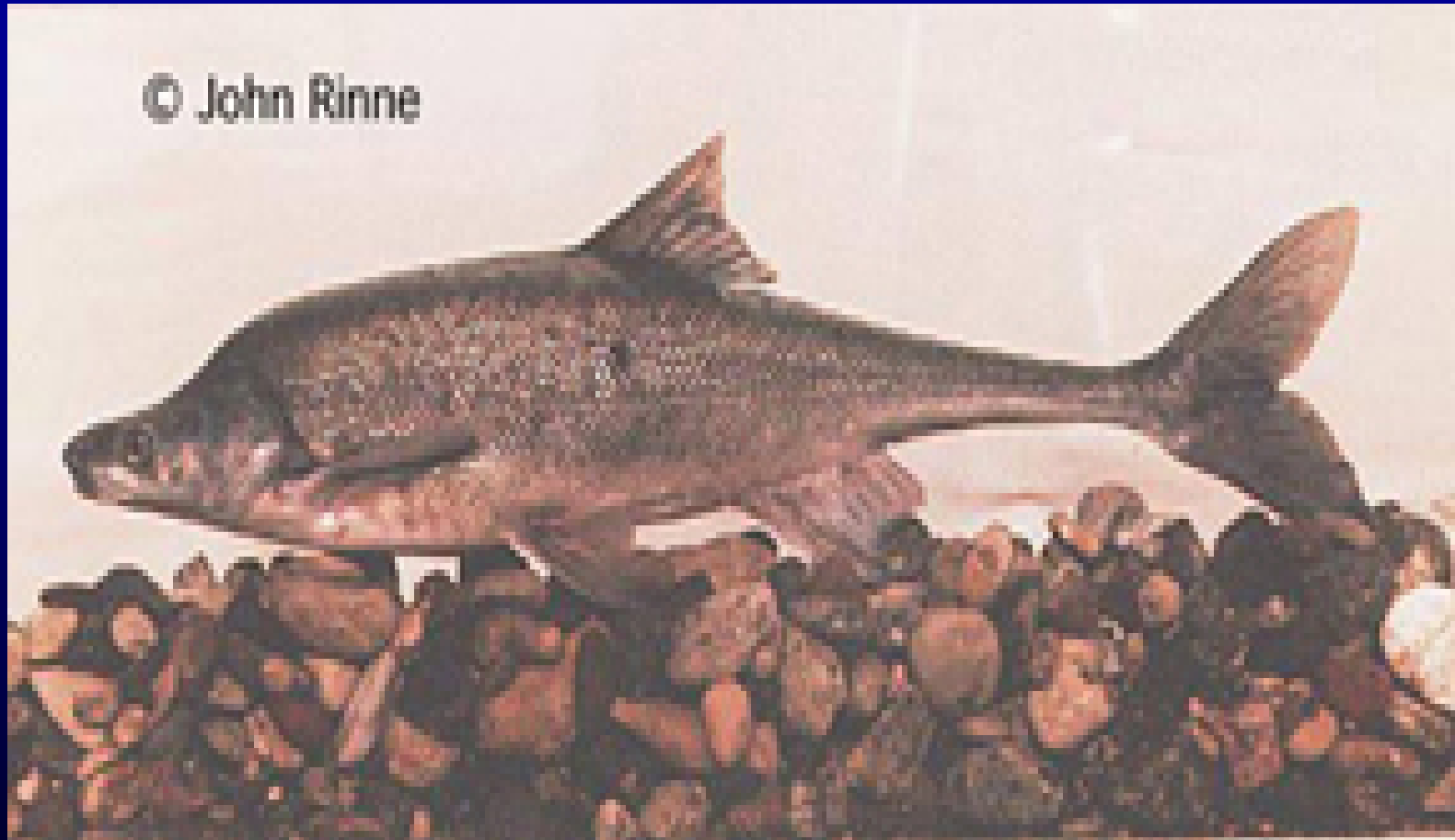
Riparian

Southwestern willow flycatcher
(E/CE); Arizona Bell's vireo (CE);
and Yellow-billed cuckoo
(CE/petitioned for federal listing)

Humpback Chub



Bonytail



Razorback sucker



February 19, 2005 19, 2005

Southwestern willow flycatcher



Yuma clapper rail



LCR MSCP Goals & Objectives

- Conserve habitat and work toward recovery of listed species
- Attempt to reduce likelihood of additional species listings
- Accommodate current water diversions and power production and optimize opportunities for future water and power resources development

LCR MSCP Goals & Objectives (cont.)

- **Provide a 50-year coordinated and comprehensive species conservation and habitat management prescription for the Lower Colorado River planning area**
- **Provide the basis for incidental take authorizations pursuant to the Federal and California Endangered Species Acts**
- **Provide ESA compliance for 27 “covered” species, and 4 “evaluation” species**

Mitigation Measures

- **Habitat creation – 8,132 acres**
 - Cottonwood-willow
 - Mesquite
 - Marsh
 - Backwaters
- **Fish augmentation**
- **Habitat Protection**
- **Adaptive Management and Research**

Program Costs

\$626 million in 2003 dollars over 50 years

Habitat creation	\$267 million
Habitat protection	\$113 million
Fish augmentation	\$ 34 million
Monitoring and research	\$212 million

Cottonwood-willow habitat



Marsh



February 19, 2005 19, 2005

Native Fish Proposal

SPECIES	ACTIVITY
Razorback Sucker	660,000 fish Over 50-year period
Bonytail	620,000 fish Over 50-year period
Humpback Chub	\$10,000/year to GCDAMP For 50 years
Flannelmouth Sucker	\$80,000/5 years + 85 acres of backwaters

Maintenance of Existing Habitat

- \$25,000,000 Fund – Up front in process, used to fund actions to avoid impacts to existing habitats within the planning area
- Available to Land Managers, via a grant application program with consent of Reclamation, USFWS, and State participants



